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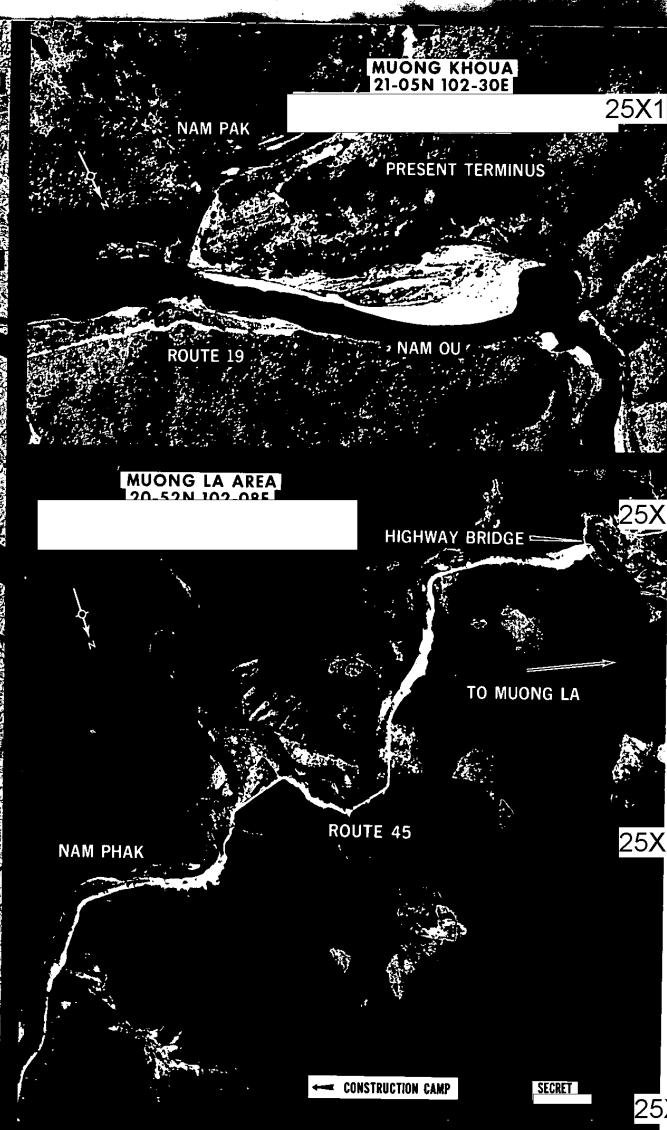
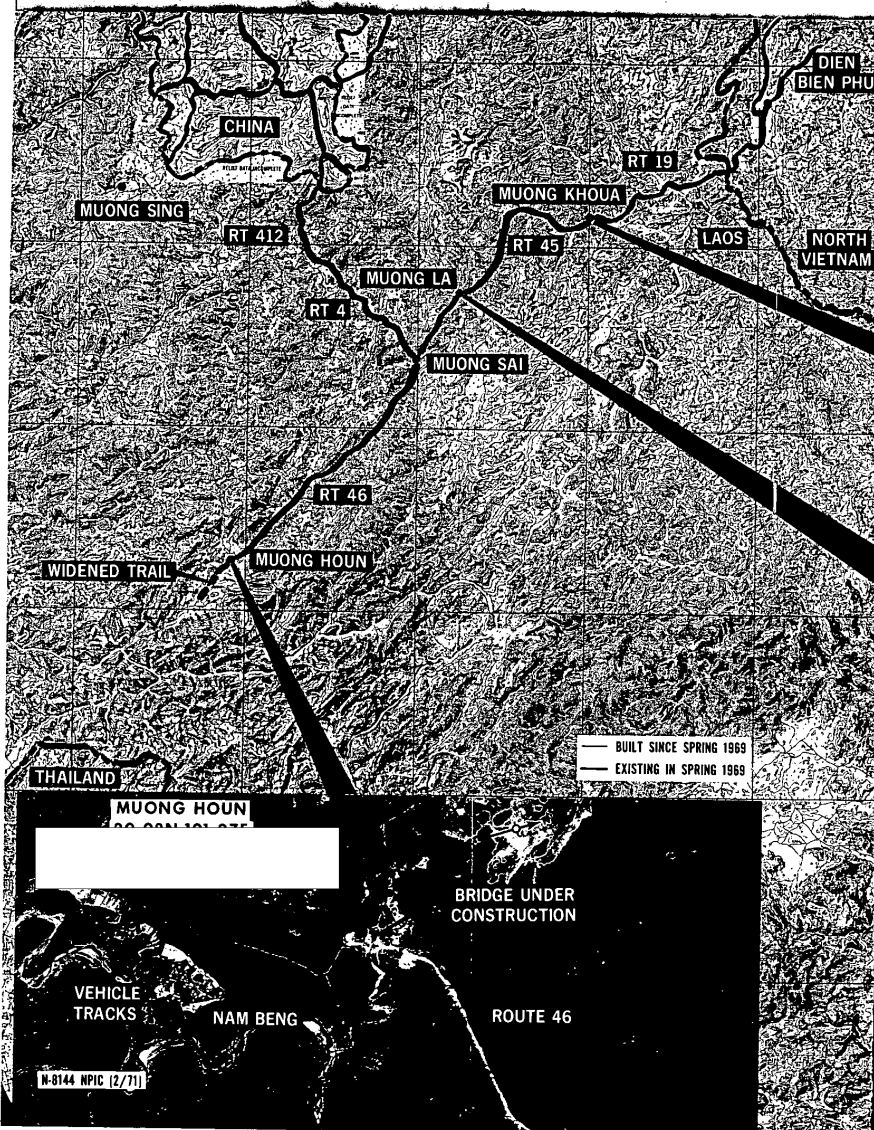
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CHINESE ROAD CONSTRUCTION NORTHERN LAOS

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REFERENCE TO:




CHINESE ROAD CONSTRUCTION
NORTHERN LAOS

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1. SIGNIFICANCE:

ROAD CONSTRUCTION BY THE CHINESE IS CONTINUING IN
NORTHERN LAOS.

2. BACKGROUND:

THE CHINESE BEGAN CONSTRUCTING THIS ROAD SYSTEM IN
LAOS IN  CROSSING THE BORDER NEAR
BAN BOTENE, THE ROAD PROCEEDED SOUTHEAST TOWARD
MUONG SAI. BY SPRING 1969, THE ROAD WAS SERVICEABLE
THROUGH MUONG SAI TO MUONG LA. THE ROAD SYSTEM
INCLUDES FIVE ROUTES: ROUTES 4, 19, 45, 46, AND 412.

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3. REMARKS:

THE CHINESE CONSTRUCTION FORCE IN NORTHERN LAOS IS
ESTIMATED TO INCLUDE BETWEEN 4,500 AND 6,000 PERSONNEL.
AN ADDITIONAL 2,200 CHINESE PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED
ASSIGNED TO ANTIAIRCRAFT DEFENSE. ENGINEERING
ACTIVITY, IN ADDITION TO CONSTRUCTION OF THE ROAD AND
ITS ASSOCIATED CONSTRUCTION CAMPS, INCLUDES ASSISTING
IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO HOSPITALS AND AN
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

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4. MISSION READOUT: SINCE SPRING 1969, ROUTE 46 HAS BEEN CONSTRUCTED SOUTH-SOUTHWEST FROM MUONG SAI TO MUONG HOUN. NORTH-NORTHEAST FROM MUONG LA, THE ROAD DESIGNATED ROUTE 45, FOLLOWS THE NORTH BANK OF THE NAM PHAK (RIVER) PAST THE SITE OF SOP KAI, WHERE IT BECOMES ROUTE 19, TO THE PRESENT CONSTRUCTION TERMINUS NEAR THE CONFLUENCE OF THE NAM PHAK AND NAM OU. THE CONFLUENCE ITSELF MARKS THE WESTERN LIMIT OF MOTORABLE ROUTE 19 WHICH EXTENDS SOUTHWEST FROM DIEN BIEN PHU IN NORTH VIETNAM. THE TWO PORTIONS OF ROUTE 19 WERE NOT YET CONNECTED.

NUMEROUS CONSTRUCTION CAMPS AND ANTIAIRCRAFT EMPLACEMENTS WERE LOCATED ALONG THE ROADS. A SEGMENT OF ROUTE 45 WITH ITS MANY CONSTRUCTION CAMPS IS SHOWN IN INSET. IN THE PAST, MANY OF THE CAMPS HAVE BEEN DISMANTLED WHEN CONSTRUCTION WAS COMPLETE.

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MAP REFERENCE: PC 1:500,000 PC J-10B, PC J-10C, TPC J-11A, TPC J-11C

SOURCES OF COLLATERAL:

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